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Rep. Smith Testimony on Assembly Bill 735

I'd like to begin by thanking Chairman Steinbrink and committee members for holding this hearing. I also want to extend my appreciation to Rep. Petrowski who has championed this issue, and is a coauthor of the bill.

This bill allows an individual who has registered their vehicle as a collector vehicle to display historical Wisconsin registration plates from the model year of the vehicle. Many of us have had the privilege to enjoy the classic style of antique automobiles at fairs, car shows, parades and competitions. Individuals who own these automobiles take great pride in continuing the tradition of the pioneer days of automobiling and often partake in regional and national competitions, showcasing the vehicles that they work so hard to maintain. Currently, there are about 165,000 vehicles registered with collector registration.

Currently, a motor vehicle must be of model year 1945 or earlier in order to display a historical registration plate from the model year of the vehicle. A vehicle may be registered as a collector vehicle if more than 20 years old, but these vehicles are issued a collector registration plate – not the same as being able to display a historical model year plate.

Under this bill, if an individual wishes to display a historical plate, they will be able to register that plate with DOT, who will then link this information to the owner's collector vehicle registration. DOT has estimated an initial cost to maintain the registration records of these vehicles, which automobile club members across Wisconsin have agreed to pay. If these funds aren't raised, the program won't go into effect and DOT would be directed to return all contributions, less a transaction fee, not exceeding \$2.50 per contributor.

**FISCAL IMPACT: SEG funds are impacted by this bill.**

DMV anticipates an increase in applications to display historical plates after bill enactment. DMV estimates that 3% of collector registrations (roughly 4,950) might be requested in the first year. For these requests, DMV may need to go back to the customer for application correction. DMV estimates 870 added LTE hours, for a cost of \$13,100 LTE salary and fringe benefits during the year totaling a one-time cost of \$59,700. The bill requires that DOT must receive \$40,900 in contributions before it may commence development work leaving an unfunded cost of \$18,800, an amount DOT says it cannot absorb within its current budget. I look forward to working with the various stakeholders to develop an amendment to solve this funding issue.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Jeff Smith  
93rd Assembly District